



# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS

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*For Immediate Release*

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**EMPLOYEE OF CONSIGNMENT AUTO SALES BUSINESS INDICTED FOR MAIL FRAUD, WIRE FRAUD, BANKRUPTCY FRAUD, AND FILING FALSE FEDERAL INCOME TAX RETURNS**

Edward E. McNally, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, announced today that a federal grand jury returned an eight-count Indictment against **MARY ANN STUTZ BARTON**, age 46, from Alton, Illinois, charging her with one count of Mail Fraud, three counts of Wire Fraud, one count of Bankruptcy Fraud, and three counts of filing false federal income tax returns. The mail and wire fraud counts each carry a statutory maximum penalty of up to twenty years in prison. The bankruptcy fraud charge carries a maximum statutory penalty of up to five years in prison. The charges of filing false federal income tax returns each carry a maximum penalty of up to three years imprisonment. The Defendant also faces a penalty of a fine up to \$250,000 on each count or twice the gross gain from the offenses and up to three years supervised release. *MARY ANN STUTZ BARTON is presumed innocent of the charges until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt to the satisfaction of a jury.*

The Indictment alleges that **MARY ANN STUTZ BARTON**, engaged in a scheme to defraud Wood River Auto Sales, d/b/a Interstate Auto Brokers, and the consignment clients of the business from January 1996 through September of 2002 and that she obtained by fraud in excess of \$300,000. The Indictment alleges that as part of her scheme to defraud, **MARY ANN STUTZ BARTON** wrote business checks to cash, cashed the checks, and kept the funds; she altered salary checks made payable to herself and others; she wrote out extra salary checks to herself, she prepared checks made payable to business customers and then forged endorsements; and she made false entries into the business ledger to conceal her embezzlement. The Indictment further alleges that **MARY ANN STUTZ BARTON** spent much of the fraudulently obtained funds through gambling at area casinos.

The Indictment follows an investigation conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigations. The prosecution of the case is being handled by Assistant United States Attorney Norman R. Smith.